

Claims

1. A controlled release composition comprising an essential oil having pesticidal and/or fungicidal properties, a supporting material therefor and means for controlling the release of the active agent from the supporting material.  
5
2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the supporting material is a material capable of absorbing the essential oil to the extent that the resultant mixture is in the form of a free-flowing powder; and the means controlling the release of the essential oil from the supporting material is a high molecular weight, low melting  
10 point wax or solid that may be mixed readily with the support material.
3. A composition according to claim 2 wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of clays; silicas; celites; zeolites; metal salts, including for example, phosphates; cellulose, such as methyl cellulose; starches; carbonates,  
15 such as sodium bicarbonate; borates, such as sodium borate; sulfates such as sodium sulfate; water soluble polymers; borax; and mixtures thereof.
4. A composition according to claim 3 wherein the means controlling the release of the essential oil from the supporting material is selected from polyethylene glycol, glycerol, mineral oil, and mixtures thereof.  
20
5. A composition according to claim 1 in the form of capsules wherein the supporting material is a core material and the means controlling the release of the essential oil from the supporting material is a coating material coating said core material.  
25
6. A composition according to claim 5 wherein the core material is an oil selected from mineral oils, vegetable oils, and animal oils.
7. A composition according to claim 5 wherein the coating material comprises a  
30 protein, carbohydrate or synthetic polymer.

8. A composition according to claim 7 wherein the coating material comprises gelatin.
9. Use of a composition as defined in claim 1 to deliver an essential oil having  
5 pesticidal or fungicidal activity to an environment in need of treatment.
10. A method of controlling the release of an essential oil having pesticidal or fungicidal activity into an environment in need of treatment comprising the step of applying a composition as defined in claim 1 onto an area to be treated.  
10
11. A package containing a composition as defined in claim 1 said package containing instructions for use of the composition as a pesticide or fungicide.